



# **CITY COUNCIL**

## **CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: TIME TO TERMINATE THE BRT FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HALTS FUNDING OF POORLY PLANNED PROGRAM**

Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, Hawaii Kai) repeated his call for Honolulu to terminate Mayor Harris' poorly thought-out Bus Rapid Transit ("BRT") program. Yesterday, the Federal Transit Administration announced it would not direct approximately \$20 million in federal funds for the BRT due to the City's actions to begin incurring costs prior to the required FTA approvals (see attached letter).

"The BRT, which proposed to increase automobile traffic congestion to help increase bus ridership, is bad public policy. Spending precious taxpayer money on a BRT plan to make traffic worse doesn't make any sense and the federal government apparently agrees. Honolulu should terminate the BRT program and instead re-direct its efforts toward finding real traffic solutions that will actually help ease traffic congestion, like a Nimitz fly-over and an extension of Kapolei Parkway to the Stadium," stated Councilmember Djou.

The City already appropriated \$31 million for the BRT. The Harris administration had counted on federal funding to complete the BRT's first phase.

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